

***Claims***

1. A method of preventing or inhibiting the production of viral DNA in a cell infected with a virus comprising

introducing into said cell, before the cell is infected with said virus, a conditionally replicating viral vector

wherein said vector prevents or inhibits the production of viral DNA.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said viral DNA would have been integrated into the cell's genome.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said virus is a wildtype virus.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said cell is a CD4+ cell.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein said virus is HIV-1.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said vector integrates into the cell's genome by the same process as that used by said virus.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said vector comprises a gene to be expressed and one or more first nucleotide sequences and wherein the vector:

(a) replicates in a host cell only upon complementation with a wild-type strain of virus, a helper virus, or a helper vector, each of which is sensitive to the presence of said one or more first nucleotide sequences;

(b) is resistant to the presence of said one or more first nucleotide sequences; and

(c) contains one or more substitutions, insertions, or deletions that decrease the likelihood of generating a replication competent vector.